

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 8, 2001

LB 543

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Thompson, on the motion to return.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. I would like to ask Senator Raikes a question, if he will yield.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Raikes, would you yield?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Could you tell me the status of Senator Kristensen's bill?

SENATOR RAIKES: It's still in committee, Senator.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you. We have process in the Legislature. And you win some and you lose some. And today we're talking about a bill that has passed three rounds of debate. It had a hearing. We've debated the funding of it, had a bill before the Appropriations Committee to fund it. The Appropriations Committee did fund it. We're now on Final Reading. Senator Raikes is talking about other things he likes better, but those bills are not out of committee and they're not before you today. So you don't, in my view, have that...have the option, unless you want to totally "unfund" this...this has been through the process. And I think it's important you look at it in view of what it is and what's been supported by the Legislature, and not...and what's passed, and not what is a bill sitting in committee. And there are significant differences between what the purpose of this bill was and what the discussion is on giving teachers money in their first years of teaching in Nebraska, which are different. This bill is about recruiting people to the profession. That doesn't recruit them to the profession; that's something for a person who already is a teacher. Senator Chambers talked about the quality issue, which I...we both agree upon is an issue. This bill rewards students with a 3.0 grade point average, and they have to be in the top quarter of their high school class. So we're attempting, through this bill, to recruit people to come into teaching who have the qualities that we're looking for, but